

# St Erme Parish Council



# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

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Minute Ref:

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# St Erme Parish Council

## Environmental Policy

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page No</b>
1. Introduction	3
2. Aims of Policy	3
3. List of policies	
I. Climate change	4
II. Nature and wildlife	4
III. Pesticide use	5
IV. Sustainable travel	5
V. Water management	5
VI. Waste and recycling	5
VII. Development	6
VIII. Responsible and sustainable procurement	6
IX. Awareness, lobbying and partnerships	7
X. Energy use	7
XI. Circular economy	7
4. Review	8
5. Supplementary Information	9

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

1.1 St Erme Parish Council recognises that a healthy environment is fundamental to the prosperity and wellbeing of our local community. The Council acknowledges that whilst our activities may have adverse effects on the environment, we can take steps to minimise those impacts.

1.2 The Council considers that the environment is important and will comply with and, where possible, exceed all environmental regulations, laws and codes of practice, as applicable.

1.3 The Council will make a positive contribution to environmental growth by protecting and enhancing the local and global environment.

## **2. AIMS OF POLICY**

The aims of the St Erme Parish Council Environmental Policy are:

- To increase environmental growth across Parish responsibilities and assets for the benefit of the local community.
- To promote the importance and value of a quality environment, and to support local people in their enjoyment of it.
- To carry out our work in an efficient way that minimises or eliminates its adverse impact on our environment.
- To promote the development of a Circular Economy

### **3. LIST OF POLICIES**

#### **i. CLIMATE CHANGE**

The council understands the effects of climate change are potentially damaging to the local community and commits to minimising its own impact by undertaking measures which include

- Supporting the delivery of car charging points.
- Encourage natural climate change solutions (such as tree planting and rewilding) within the Parish.
- Agree measures to track the Council's carbon footprint over time.

#### **ii. NATURE & WILDLIFE**

St Erme Parish Council is committed to increasing opportunities for nature to thrive on the assets it owns or manages. Environmental growth will be achieved by:

- Protecting and enhancing the quality and extent of the natural environment in St Erme
- Supporting the conservation of trees, hedgerows, ponds and streams
- Managing Council assets (including public rights of way, play areas and verges) in a manner that protects and increases biodiversity
- Introducing environmental growth opportunities and activities, as appropriate, on Council assets and land we manage
- Banning the release of balloon/sky lanterns from Council land and events

### **iii. PESTICIDE USE**

St Erme Parish is committed to phasing out the use of pesticides on assets we own or manage (with the exception of use for the control of Schedule 9 plants under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, such as Japanese Knotweed, or where it is used to reduce material risks to asset integrity).

### **iv. SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL**

The Parish Council will:

- Promote and support modern working practices, such as remote working, amongst staff and councillors
- Encourage members and officers to car-share, where possible, when a car journey must be made on Council business
- Promote and support the use of cycling, public footpaths and public transport

### **v. WATER MANAGEMENT**

The Parish Council is committed to responsible water management and conservation throughout its operations, which include:

- Promoting and supporting natural solutions to reduce/reuse surface water run-off in the Parish

### **vi. WASTE & RECYCLING**

The Parish Council will:

- Promote and encourage recycling across the Parish
- Use recyclable, compostable and/or recycled products on Council assets
- Cease use of single-use plastics at Council events.
- Recycle all recyclable waste generated at Council events.
- Reduce the production of non-recyclable resources such as laminated or plastic based publicity material
- Minimise the amount of printing and minimise the amount of wastepaper
- Observe our duty of care conscientiously within our waste contracts

- Utilise electronic communications, councillors to use an opt-in scheme for printing paper documents
- Minimise pollution and prevent it where possible (including light, noise, solids, liquids and chemicals)
- Use composting facilities at relevant operated amenities including allotments and Cemeteries

#### **vii. DEVELOPMENT**

The Parish Council will:

- Support planning applications where the applicant can demonstrate biodiversity net gain.

#### **viii. RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT**

The Parish Council will:

- Source materials and services locally so long as the requirements for value for money and quality are met
- Ensure that timber, or similar products, used by the Council will be from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified sources
- Ensure that consumables used on Council equipment (such as cleaning products and inks) are eco-friendly
- Ensure that procurement of goods and services are weighted appropriately to encourage local suppliers thereby promoting the Circular Economy
- Ensure that catering produce, including tea/coffee at Council events, is plant-based and sourced from local, organic, fair trade (or other recognised certification schemes)

## **ix. AWARENESS, LOBBYING & PARTNERSHIPS**

The Parish Council will:

- Promote awareness of, and information about, environmental issues within the community
- Support, and act as a voice for, local environmental concerns within the community
- Ensure that all individuals involved in the organisation (including contractors) are aware of their responsibilities in implementing this environmental policy
- Work with partners, where appropriate, to increase environmental growth within the Parish

## **x. ENERGY USE**

The Parish Council will:

- Promote use of renewable energy in the Parish

## **xi. CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

The Parish Council will:

- Undertake an audit of the materials and services used by the Council
- Develop policies that encourage the development of a Circular Economy in the Parish
- Promote and encourage the use of local suppliers in procurement policies

#### **4. REVIEW**

This policy and its application will be subject to annual review to ensure that it continues to reflect the aims and objectives of St Erme Parish Council and promotes continuous environmental improvement throughout the Council's operations.



## 5. Supplementary information

### CLIMATE

In response to declaring a climate emergency, Cornwall Council has produced its Climate Change Action Plan, found here;

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/y5mctbyu/climate-change-action-plan.pdf>

For an excellent example of an adopted local climate action plan, see Helston's here;

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/ltlkyaga/helston-climate-action-plan.pdf>

To find out about Forest for Cornwall (F4C) funding for support community-based projects that help to increase the tree canopy cover in Cornwall, see;

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/funds/forest-for-cornwall>

For information about undertaking a carbon footprint calculation, see;

<https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/carbon-footprinting-guide>

### NATURE & WILDLIFE

Cornwall Council's Grow Nature Toolkit has a specific area for T&PCs wanting to know more about environmental growth – find out more here;

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/grow-nature/about-grow-nature/>

### PESTICIDE USE

For step-by-step guidance for local authorities looking to go pesticide-free see;

[https://issuu.com/pan-uk/docs/pft\\_a\\_toolkit\\_for\\_local\\_authorities?e=28041656/43992989](https://issuu.com/pan-uk/docs/pft_a_toolkit_for_local_authorities?e=28041656/43992989)

### SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

For a charity's perspective about supporting car-free travel;

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/>

## **WATER MANAGEMENT**

South West Water runs several campaigns to use reduce water loss, increase efficiency and protect Cornwall's rivers and seas. You could use their 'Top Tips', 'Think-sink' and 'Love your loo' resources to educate staff and local users;

<https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/save-water/top-tips/>

<https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/advice-and-services/your-wastewater/think-sink>

<https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/advice-and-services/your-wastewater/love-your-loo>

## **WASTE & RECYCLING**

Materials such as paper, cardboard, furniture, household metals and plastics, glass, electrical equipment, batteries, aerosols, green waste are collected by recycling services in Cornwall. Household recyclate is collected as part of Cornwall Council's domestic recycling service – your residents can find out more, including what can (and can't) be recycled here;

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/rubbish-recycling-and-waste/>

## **DEVELOPMENT**

For more information about biodiversity net gain in Cornwall see;

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/adopted-plans/cornwall-planning-for-biodiversity-guide/>

## **RESPONSIBLE & SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT**

For some key questions on sustainable procurement see;

<https://atwork.wwf.ca/five-sustainability-questions-for-procurement-professionals/>

## **ENERGY USE**

For tips about how to reduce energy use and switching suppliers, see;

<https://inews.co.uk/news/environment/how-to-reduce-your-energy-consumption-50-simple-ways-to-cut-bills-and-reduce-emissions-264785>

## **CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

For an introduction to the circular economy see;

<https://wrap.org.uk/about-us/our-vision/wrap-and-circular-economy>